



Chesapeake Ecology Center

Spring 2009

RainScaping Campaign

*An Environmental Partnership for Stormwater Runoff Solutions
Promotes "Beautiful Solutions to Water Pollution"*




RainScaping Campaign Earth Day Launch - Wednesday, April 22nd
10 - 11 a.m., CEC, on the grounds of Adams Academy Middle School
245 Clay Street, Annapolis, Maryland

Working together, 34 environmental non-profit and government partners are implementing a RainScaping Campaign to improve the health of Anne Arundel County's tributaries and the Chesapeake Bay. The RainScaping Campaign will promote a comprehensive approach to easy-to-use solutions to clean up our streams, creeks, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. The Partners will officially launch the RainScaping Campaign and the RainScaping.org website with a Campaign Kickoff at the rain gardens at the Chesapeake Ecology Center on Earth Day, April 22nd.

There will be an opportunity to tour several rain gardens as well as hear from partners, sponsors, and public officials about the importance of this effort.

No RSVP is required. In case of rain, the Campaign Kickoff will be held in the Adams Academy gymnasium.

The Chesapeake Ecology Center (CEC) is one of 35 partners for the RainScaping Campaign. Notably, the CEC Native Plant Demonstrations Gardens and Sites--which are a public resource--are a great resource for the RainScaping Campaign. 

Chesapeake Ecology Center is located just minutes from downtown and the State House, on the grounds of Adams Academy (alternative middle school) at Adams Park, 245 Clay Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Directions from route 50:

Take Exit 24 Rowe Blvd. toward Annapolis; turn right on Taylor Ave. (just past the Navy-Marine

Corps Memorial Stadium); turn left onto Glenwood St. (0.42 miles); Glenwood St. becomes Clay St.; turn left into the parking lot and you're there!



Join us at the CEC!

Tours of Rain Gardens and other Native Plant Demonstration Gardens, led by Master Gardeners, will be held the second Saturday of May and June on May 9th and June 13th, from 11 a.m.-Noon, at the Chesapeake Ecology Center (CEC).

CEC Garden Care Days are on these same dates, May 9th and June 13th, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Folks are welcome to simply come for the tour and, of course, they are certainly welcome to help with Garden Care before the tour.

A Rain Garden Workshop will be offered at the CEC on Saturday, July 11th, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Stay tuned for more details!

The CEC's Annual Garden Open House and Native Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, September 19th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



April 2nd CEC Volunteer Day & Videotaping by Maryland Public Television



Our first major volunteer day of the season was a huge success! The weather cooperated, and it turned out to be a beautiful day! CEC volunteers and staff were joined by enthusiastic volunteers including: nine students, principal Jeff Tillar, teachers Monica McDonald, Robert Scarborough, and Michael Adams, all from Adams Academy; Jeff Schwart, the owner and three crew members from Greenskeeper Environmental; and seven Master Gardeners.

We got off to a great start with the Master Gardener volunteers: Joyce Donlon, Susan Steele, Kim

Morrow, Sandy Patterson, Bob Bates, Malcolm Doying, and Pat Shema. Master Gardeners divided up and worked with small groups of Adams Academy students and their teachers. Activities included mulching the paths along the Forest Buffer, clearing cut grasses and weeds and mulching the Sweet Bay Magnolia Rain Garden, and planting grasses and mulching in the Biolog Rain Garden. The groups rotated between the different activities so that all had an opportunity to participate in each activity. Students had the opportunity to learn about the environmental amenities at their campus, and they enjoyed themselves...not to mention, they were a real help!

Additionally and fortunately, Jeff Schwartz, owner of Greenskeeper Environmental, joined us and donated services by having three staff from his crew help out by cutting and hauling grasses, weeding and mulching. (This is the same company that's done outstanding work on the major invasive species removal and reforestation on the grounds along the riparian forest buffer, covering over five acres of the ten-acre campus.)

Marilyn and Tim from Maryland Public Television filmed all of the various activities spread out over a large expanse in the front portion of the campus; and they conducted several filmed interviews. Volunteers who were filmed highlighted the Adams Academy/Chesapeake Ecology Center partnership; the value of Rain Gardens and other native plant installations; the RainScaping Campaign; and, of course, the tremendous value of volunteer assistance, for which we are very grateful! The 24 Native Plant Demonstration Gardens and Sites would not be possible without the tremendous assistance of numerous volunteers!

We thank Adams Academy staff and students, Master Gardeners, the Greenskeeper Environmental crew, CEC volunteers and staff, and ,of course, Maryland Public Television! Photos of the event are posted on [Picasa](#).

*** MPT will air the footage shot at the CEC Volunteer Day (described above) during its Chesapeake Bay Volunteer-a-thon on Sunday, April 26th, 6-8 p.m. ***